Rec= Phil. Oct 28

Burk

Phila Oct 27th 1869

To Dr Engelman

Dear Sir,

After I left you last night I thought I would Call your attention to a peculiar form of Cynodon dactylon which is Common at the Navy Yard, but which I have Not Met with in any of the Collections at the academy. It is a More Robust And Smoother plant than the other, And the flowers Are Constantly produced and the Seeds Ripened *in the Sheaths*, whereas in the Common form the Spikes are Raised on a long Naked peduncle.

I first Noticed it 10 or 12 years ago, long before that Colony of Southern plants appeared, till which time I had Never Noticed No 1, but I have Since found it in other places along the Delaware, though I never found No 2 anywhere else. it grows 3 or 4 ft long.

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I also wish to Call your attention to a Ranunculus which passes for Repens, but is so different from what I Consider repens And also from the description of the foreign plant, that it may be worth investigating.

The English Botany after describing its variable Character says of repens that in All its forms And in All situations it preserves its Creeping habit, but this never Creeps, it grows perfectly erect And in 20 years that I have known it I have never seen it throw out a runner as the other does.

I have never seen it except on the margin of tide water. It begins to flower very early And Continues at intervals All Summer, in the latter part of the Season often forming double flowers.

If you have seen these or do not Care to be troubled with these you Can easily throw them aside and there will be no harm done as I have plenty of Specimens, And you must excuse my troubling you with them.

I also send a var of Juncus tenuis which I find within the last 2 years. It differs from Grays description in the very short involucral leaves but I have no doubt it is your var. secunda.

With great respect I remain
Your much obliged Friend

Isaac Burk
410 Coates St.
Phil.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec June 20th
Ans same day

Phila June 17th 1877

Prof Engelman

Dear Sir,

I have been writing Some articles for the paper, for the purpose of directing popular attention to botanical Studies and for this have avoided technicalities as far as possible, or Endeavored to explain them in Such a Manner as to Make them attractive to others than Scientific Students.

In the Course of writing on the Sweet gum I was led to Speak of the Corky excressenses on its branches, which have always been a puzzle to Me, and it Struck Me that by Calling your attention to It I Might gain Some Knowledge. I have never Seen it except in the neighborhood of this City, and here it does not produce the gum. Does it ever produce gum with you? Is there any Connexion between the production of gum and Corky

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matter? I send you my remarks about it that if your Attention has not been Already Called to it, you may be led to Make observations. If you Know anything bearing on it I Should be glad to Share your Knowledges.

I also Send as a Matter of Curiosity a list of plants Collected on Ships ballast which will serve to give you Some idea of the traffic from this port. Since that list was prepared quite a large Number have been Collected Amongst them two or three Californian Species Godetia quadrivulnera, Gilia Capitata And a Crucifer, perhaps Streptanthus With Numerous European plants partly undetermined.

To one who Cannot get away from the City these furnish a Constant exercise in trying to trace out their Names And families particularly As their Country is generally unknown, so we have not even that guide in making them out.

Not wishing to bore you further I am Yours

Most respectfully

Isaac B Burk

410 Fairmount Avenue

Phil

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Rec Febr 27

Phila Feb 22 1878

Dr G Engelman

Dear Sir:

I was much pleased to receive through the Academy of Nat Sciences Copies of your Oaks Firs & Junipers of the United States for which you have my Sincere Thanks.

If I can be of any Service to you at any time I shall be much pleased

With great respect

I remain yours truly

Isaac Burk

410 Fairmount Avenue Phil

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